



CREaTE

Canterbury Research and Theses Environment

Canterbury Christ Church University's repository of research outputs

<http://create.canterbury.ac.uk>

Please cite this publication as follows:

Burman, J., Oleander, A., Hall, D. and Bray, D. (2019) Identification of female sex pheromone for monitoring the barred tooth striped moth, *trichopteryx polycommata*, a priority conservation species. *Journal of Chemical Ecology*, 45 (8). pp. 649-656. ISSN 1573-1561.

Link to official URL (if available):

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10886-019-01093-1>

This version is made available in accordance with publishers' policies. All material made available by CReaTE is protected by intellectual property law, including copyright law. Any use made of the contents should comply with the relevant law.

Contact: create.library@canterbury.ac.uk



1 Identification of Female Sex Pheromone for Monitoring the Barred 2 Tooth Striped Moth, *Trichopteryx polycommata*, a Priority 3 Conservation Species

4
5 **Ashen Oleander¹ David R. Hall² Daniel P. Bray² Joseph P. J. Burman¹**

6 ¹Ecology Research Group, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road,
7 Canterbury, CT11QU, UK

8 ²Natural Resources Institute (NRI), University of Greenwich, Medway Campus, Central
9 Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4TB, UK

10
11 **Joseph P. J. Burman**

12 joseph.burman@canterbury.ac.uk

13 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3888-4238> Tel: +447720 290812

14 15 **Abstract**

16 Pheromone-baited traps can be excellent tools for sensitive detection of insects of
17 conservation concern. Here, identification of the sex pheromone of *Trichopteryx*
18 *polycommata* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775), an under-recorded UK priority species, is
19 reported. In analyses of extracts of the pheromone glands of female *T. polycommata* by gas
20 chromatography coupled to electroantennographic recording from the antenna of a male
21 moth, a single active component was detected. This was identified as (Z,Z)-6,9-
22 nonadecadiene (Z,Z6,9-19:H) by comparison of its mass spectrum and retention times with
23 those of the synthetic standard. In a pilot field trial in Kent, UK, *T. polycommata* males were
24 caught in pheromone traps baited with lures loaded with 1mg and 2mg (Z,Z)-6,9-19:H.
25 Optimum lure loading was identified in a further five trials in Kent, Sussex and Lancashire
26 where lures of 0, 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1, 2, 5 and 10 mg loadings were tested. Traps baited with 1
27 to 10 mg of ZZ6,9-19:H caught significantly more *T. polycommata* than traps baited with 0
28 mg and 0.001mg. In a pilot survey of *T. polycommata* using pheromone lures around
29 Morecambe Bay, UK, *T. polycommata* males were captured at 122 new sites within the three

counties where trials took place, demonstrating the potential of pheromone monitoring to increase knowledge of abundance, distribution and ecology of this elusive species.

Key Words (Z,Z)-6,9-nonadecadiene, electroantennography, insect conservation, lure, detection of endangered species, biodiversity, mapping indicator species, live-catching pheromone traps.

Introduction

Biodiversity loss is a global crisis (Brooks et al. 2012; Jenkins 2003) which continues despite international agreements to promote conservation (Larigauderie et al. 2012; Santamaría and Méndez 2012; Waldron et al. 2013). The rate of loss of invertebrate populations exceeds that of vertebrates and vascular plants, possibly by several orders of magnitude (Conrad et al. 2006; Dunn 2005; Samways 2007; Thomas et al. 2004). Decline of insect populations is of particular concern, as they are a vital component of ecosystems. Insects provide stability in ecosystems, recycle nutrients and transfer energy between trophic levels. They also supply many ecosystem services essential to humanity, particularly pollination and biological pest control, as well as being of inherent cultural value (Fonseca 2009; Kellert 1993; Kim 1993; Littlewood et al. 2012). However, efforts to conserve insect populations are complicated by a lack of knowledge and data on threatened species. This is due in part to a lack of tools which are suitably sensitive to detect and monitor limited populations of small organisms (Cardoso et al. 2011),

Recently, tools employing pheromones have been developed for monitoring insects of conservation value, including *Elater ferrugineus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Osmoderma eremita* (Scopoli, 1763) (Larsson and Svensson 2009; Larsson et al. 2003), and the luna moth *Actias luna* (L.) (Millar et al. 2016). Historically, pheromone traps have been employed as sensitive, species-specific tools for monitoring pest species in and around crops. The same strategy could equally be applied to detection and monitoring of threatened insect populations (Andersson et al. 2014; Larsson & Svensson 2009; Musa et al. 2013). Pheromone monitoring has been shown to be more sensitive and cost-effective than traditional sampling methods and could potentially contribute to solving some of the problems experienced in insect conservation (Andersson et al. 2014; Larsson & Svensson 2009; Musa et al. 2013; Svensson et al. 2009). However, such an approach requires that an attractive pheromone is produced by

the target species, and that it can be chemically characterized and produced in sufficient quantities for field use.

The aim of this study was to develop and test a pheromone-based system for detecting and monitoring populations of *Trichopteryx polycommata* (Denis & Schiffmüller 1775) (Lepidoptera; Geometridae). Formerly widespread across the UK, this ‘UK Priority Species’ (JNCC 2007) is now only found in a few locations in Kent, Sussex, North Hampshire, Wiltshire, Lancashire and South Cumbria, with limited records from Dorset, Herefordshire, Norfolk and Scotland (Wigglesworth et al. 2018). The larvae feed on wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) (Linnaeus, 1758) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) (Linnaeus, 1758) (Wigglesworth et al. 2018), and have also been known to feed on species of *Lonicera* (Choi 2007). *Trichopteryx polycommata* is therefore a bioindicator for presence of *L. vulgare*, an important food plant for many species, and could be used to assess the potential impact of ash dieback on insect communities. *Trichopteryx polycommata* also supports a host-specific parasitoid wasp *Earinus transversus* Lyle (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Agathidinae) found only in the UK, and rediscovered after 100 years in 2005 (Shaw 2010).

Species-specific monitoring and a need to gain a better understanding of population distribution, status and ecology are crucial to conservation of *T. polycommata* (JNCC 2010). The moths are infrequently caught in light traps (Wigglesworth et al. 2018), and the best current technique for detection is to search for adults resting on *L. vulgare* after dark (Wigglesworth et al. 2018). Here, we collected and identified a putative sex pheromone produced by *T. polycommata*, and confirmed that it elicits a physiological response through electroantennography. Lures releasing the pheromone were formulated and tested through pilot studies to determine whether they attract *T. polycommata* moths, presented alone and in combination with funnel traps. In a second experiment, we examined the effect of amount of pheromone loaded into lures on number of moths caught. Finally, we conducted a preliminary field survey with pheromone-baited traps, to assess their usefulness in detecting populations of *T. polycommata*.

Methods and Materials

Insect Sourcing and Sample Collection Three adult female and four male *T. polycommata* moths were collected by torch light and netting from Seaford Head Nature Reserve, Sussex (50.756995N, 0.13722479E) on 23 March 2016. The moths were kept in a refrigerator at 5

°C in individual plastic containers (17.8 × 11.5 × 4.4 cm). Pieces of damp cotton wool were placed in each container to maintain humidity and provide a drinking source. The next day at 1000 h the females were removed from the refrigerator and placed in a dark, controlled-temperature room at 10 °C to mimic the conditions under which the moths are found to be most active. At 1230 h gland extracts were taken from two live females who had been observed calling for approximately 90 min. During calling, females swayed their abdomen back and forth while the pulsing pheromone gland was exposed, at which point it was excised with a pair of microscissors. Excised glands were placed immediately into individual glass vials (1.1mL 12mm x 32mm; Fisher Scientific, Leicestershire, UK) each containing 10 µl of hexane (HPLC Plus; Sigma-Aldrich). After 10 min the hexane was removed using a pipette and retained in a separate vial. A second wash was performed with another 10 µl of hexane and stored separately. Glands were retained individually in vials containing 10µl of hexane. All samples were placed in the freezer at -20 °C until use.

Analyses by Gas Chromatography linked to Electroantennographic Detection (GC-EAD)

Male *T. polycommata* moths used for GC-EAD were kept in a refrigerator at 5 °C in individual plastic containers (0.8 × 11.5 × 4.4 cm) containing damp cotton wool. Individuals were removed from the refrigerator 2 h before use to allow them to acclimatize to room temperature. Insects were then anesthetized using carbon dioxide, and the head removed under a dissecting microscope with a razor blade. A borosilicate glass capillary electrode (ID 0.86mm, Warner Instruments, Hamden, CT06514), pulled to a fine tip and filled with 0.1M KCl containing 1% polyvinylpyrrolidone as electrolyte, was inserted into the back of the head. The electrode and head were then mounted onto a silver wire held within an electrode holder connected to the earth probe of a portable EAG amplifier (INR-2, Syntech, formerly Hilversum, The Netherlands, now Kirchzarten, Germany). A similar electrode mounted onto the x10 recording preamplifier was then brought into contact with the distal tip of the antenna.

Samples were presented to antennal preparations via a gas chromatograph (HP6890, Agilent Technologies, Stockport, Cheshire, UK) fitted with DB-WAX and DB1 fused silica capillary columns (30 m x 0.32 mm i.d. x 0.25 µ film thickness; Supelco, Gillingham, Dorset, UK). The eluents from the columns were combined with a glass Y-piece into a length (10 cm) of deactivated fused silica capillary and then split 50:50 using a glass Y-piece to equal lengths of deactivated fused silica tubing leading to the flame ionization detector (FID) and

via a heated (250°C) transfer line into silanized glass tube (4 mm i.d.) delivering a continuous flow of air (200 ml/min) over the antennal preparation. Gland extracts (1 µl) were injected at 220°C in splitless mode onto the DB-WAX column, with the oven temperature held for 2 min at 50 °C before increasing at 20 °C min⁻¹ or 10 °C min⁻¹ to 250 °C and held for 5 min. Carrier gas was helium at continuous flow of 2.4 ml/min. The EAG signal was digitized by connecting the amplifier as a GC detector and this and the simultaneous FID signal were captured and analyzed using EZchrom Elite (Version 3.3.1, Agilent Technologies). Antennal preparations were only moved under the air flow outlet once the solvent peak had eluted. Two of the four males survived so two EAD runs of the first wash of the gland extract from the same female moth were carried out using an antenna from each male in turn. Standard *n*-alkanes (C8 to C24) were run under the same conditions to calculate retention indices.

Analyses by Gas Chromatography coupled to Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) Pheromone gland extracts were analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) on a CP-3800 GC coupled directly to a Saturn 2200 MS (Varian, now Agilent Technologies) in electron impact mode. The GC was equipped with a polar DB-Wax column and non-polar VF5 column (Agilent; 30m × 0.25mm i.d. × 0.25µ film thickness) connected to the transfer line via a Quick-Switch Valve. The GC was programmed at 40 °C for 2 min, then increased by 10 °C min⁻¹ to 240 °C and held for 5 min. Injections were made in splitless mode at 220 °C and the transfer line temperature was 250 °C. Carrier gas was helium at a constant flow of 1 ml/min. Gas chromatography retention times were converted to retention indices by comparison with the retention times of *n*-alkanes as above.

Field Trials (*Z,Z*)-6,9-Nonadecadiene (ZZ6,9-19:H; ≥ 98% pure by GC-MS analysis on the polar GC column) was obtained from Pherobank (Wijk bij Duurstede, The Netherlands). Lures were prepared by loading the required amount in hexane solution (100 µl) onto rubber septa (13 mm diameter, Sigma Aldrich, Gillingham, Dorset, UK). Once the hexane had evaporated, lures were wrapped in aluminum foil and placed in the freezer until required.

For a preliminary field trial, lures were loaded with 1 mg or 2 mg ZZ6,9-19:H. In the field, lures were attached to garden canes approximately 1 m above ground level, the height at which *T. polycommata* rest on privet hedges. The lures were tested in this way at the following 17 key British locations known to contain *T. polycommata* populations in Sussex

(50.827194N, 0.455016W), Inverness (57.425511N, 4.499708W), Norfolk (52.402082N, 0.754747E; 52.509296N, 0.627334E; 52.466495N, 0.769076E; 52.478686N, 0.786043E; 52.488902N, 0.614333E; 52.568607N, 0.596493E; 52.451878N, 0.942289E; 52.402082N, 0.754747E; 52.468944N, 0.772028E); Argyll and Bute (56.558925N, 5.253752W; 56.558678N, 5.254284W); Yorkshire (54.082715N, 2.022893W; 54.084423N, 2.021212W; 54.137356N, 2.036545W and 54.083614N, 2.022893W) between 28 March and 11 May 2017. Searches for *T. polycommata* by torchlight are typically carried out between 1900 h and 2130 h when the moths can be seen resting on *L. vulgare*. Participants given lures to test without traps trialed the lures during this time period. Lures were tested for 15-20 min before being moved to a new location at least 50 m away.

In a parallel trial, two economy funnel traps (Oecos Ltd, Kimpton, UK; height 22 cm, diam. 13 cm), one baited with the 1 mg lure the other baited with the 2 mg lure, were placed at St Margaret's Bay, Kent (51.141445N, 1.372182E). The traps were hung from a large *L. vulgare* bush approximately 1 m above the ground and approximately 5 m apart from each other on 21 March 2017. The traps were checked daily between 22-28 March 2017 and any moths caught were released within a 5 m radius of the trap. This inevitably meant that there would be some recaptures of individual males. Ideally recaptured moths would have been identified by mark recapture methods, but we were not able to mark captured moths due to restrictions on handling this rare species. Recapture rates in moth pheromones tend to be fairly low after a few days of recapture (Oleander et al. 2018), so the overall effect can likely be considered negligible.

To investigate the effect of lure loading on catches, lures were loaded with 0.001 mg, 0.01 mg, 0.1 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg, 5 mg and 10 mg of ZZ6,9-19H. Control lures were made by adding 100 µl of hexane to the rubber septum. The field trials were carried out at five locations: St Margaret's Bay, Kent (51.141445N, 1.372182E); Seaford Head, Sussex (50.756995N, 0.137225E); Warton Crag, Lancashire (54.148923N, 2.783226W); Roudsea, Lancashire (54.234726N, 3.026337W); Challan Hall, Lancashire (54.188482N, 2.808341W and 54.195082N, 2.802492W); and Sizergh, Lancashire (54.285892N, 2.788926W). Trials took place between 29 March – 4 April 2017 in Kent; 30 March and 13 April 2017 in Sussex and between 13-25 April 2017 in Lancashire. At each location, eight economy funnel traps (Oecos Ltd) K were baited with the lures. The traps were positioned 2 m apart and were placed in the order of lowest loading to highest. In Kent the traps were arranged in two parallel lines, each line containing four traps positioned 2 m apart and the lines were also 2 m

apart. In Sussex and Lancashire, on each site the traps were arranged in an approximate semi-circle and were 2 m apart. Traps were placed in this close proximity due to the limited size of the locations, which are narrow open pathways through a woodland. The traps were checked daily and any moths caught were identified and released within a 5 m radius of the traps. Traps were moved round one position daily to reduce any positional effect. As a precautionary measure, the traps were removed every two or three days for two days to ensure the local population of moths would have the opportunity to mate.

For statistical analysis, at each of the six sites at which lures were tested, the total number of *T. polycommata* captured by each lure loading was divided by number of nights of trapping to give mean catch night⁻¹. The resultant means were transformed to log (n+1) and entered as the dependent variable into a linear model with site (six level factor) and lure loading (eight level factor) as independent variables. Significance of terms within the model were assessed by *F* tests, with Tukey's test ($P < 0.05$) of estimated marginal means used to identify significant differences between lure loadings, controlling for effect of site. Estimated marginal means (and 95% confidence intervals) of catch night⁻¹ for each lure loading were back-transformed onto the original scale for presentation. All data analysis was performed in R (R Core Team, 2018, Lenth 2019)

***T. polycommata* Survey** A field survey was carried out in order to establish the potential for increasing detection of *T. polycommata* moths using a pheromone-based method of sampling. Pheromone traps baited with 2 mg lures were placed overnight at 168 locations at 102 sites in Morecambe Bay between 11 April – 1 May 2017. *T. polycommata* had previously been recorded at 26 of the 168 locations. One economy funnel trap (Oecos Ltd, UK) was used per location. Each trap was hung on a tree or bush approximately 1 m above the ground. The traps were set in position by 17:00 h and checked by 11:00 h the following day. Any moths caught were identified and released into suitable vegetation on site. Maps of distribution were produced using ArcMap 10.2.2 (ESRI (Environmental Systems Resource Institute) 2014).

Results

Pheromone Identification A single, reproducible response was observed in GC-EAD analyses of ovipositor extracts of female *T. polycommata* run using a polar GC column. The

antenna of a male moth responded to a putative major sex pheromone component (Fig. 1) at Retention Index (RI) 1964. The amount present was up to 150 ng per ovipositor. In GC-MS analyses this major peak had RI 1950 on the polar column and 1869 on the non-polar column. The mass spectrum (Fig. 2) showed a probable molecular ion at m/z 264 and base peak at m/z 67. The data were consistent with those for a straight-chain, 19-carbon hydrocarbon with two non-conjugated double bonds, most likely in the 6,9-positions as the 3,6- configuration would have been expected to give a strong ion at m/z 79 (e.g. Yamamoto et al. 2008). Synthetic (Z,Z)-6,9-nonadecadiene (ZZ6,9-19:H) was subsequently obtained and had identical mass spectrum (Fig. 2) and RI's to the natural compound, although insects were not available by then to test the EAG response to the synthetic compound.

Field Trials In the first trial with volunteers and lures suspended on canes, *T. polycommata* males were observed to be attracted to the 1 mg and 2 mg ZZ6,9-19:H lures at 50.827194N, 0.455016W and 54.082715N, 2.022893W but not at any of the other sites. In the parallel live trapping trial, one male *T. polycommata* was caught in the trap baited with the 1 mg lure while 16 males were caught in the trap baited with the 2 mg lure. No other species of moths were caught in these traps.

In the trial to compare catches with different lure loadings, controlling for a significant effect of trapping location ($F_{5,35} = 8.7$, $P < 0.001$), an overall significant effect of pheromone loading was found on mean catch night⁻¹ ($F_{7,35} = 11.1$, $P < 0.001$, Fig. 3). Traps baited with 1 to 10 mg of ZZ6,9-19:H caught significantly more *T. polycommata* than traps baited with 0 mg and 0.001mg. Traps baited with 10 mg ZZ6,9-19:H also caught significantly more *T. polycommata* than traps baited with 0.01 mg.

No other species were attracted to the lures in Kent and Sussex, but in Lancashire *T. carpinata* (Borkhausen, 1794) and *Chloroclystis v-ata* (Haworth, 1809) (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) were caught in the pheromone baited traps, although in much lower numbers than *T. polycommata* (67 and 1 respectively, compared to 514 *T. polycommata*).

It was observed on 31 March 2017 at Seaford Head that at 2130 h no *T. polycommata* had been caught in the pheromone traps, but by 1000 h the following morning 61 had been caught. During the Lancashire field trials, it was observed that activity at the pheromone traps began at 0045 h and lasted for approximately 45 min.

255 **Survey of *T. polycommata*.** The pilot study increased the number of records of *T.*
256 *polycommata* from 107 to 881 in the region and the number of known *T. polycommata* sites
257 from 48 to 88. Fig. 4 shows the known distribution and abundance of *T. polycommata* in the
258 Morecambe Bay area before 2017 and after the pilot pheromone study.

Discussion

Prior to this study, the recommended way of surveying for *T. polycommata* was to search *L. vulgare* bushes after dark by torchlight looking for adults resting on the twigs. The results presented here demonstrate that pheromone-baited traps could provide a more practical and sensitive method of detection. (Z,Z)-6,9-nonadecadiene (ZZ6,9-19:H) was identified as a component of the female sex pheromone of this species, which attracts male moths in the field. This is the first pheromone component to be identified in the genus *Trichopteryx* which contains 11 other species. Given the small numbers of individuals available for this study and the somewhat artificial conditions used prior to gland extraction, the possibility of there being additional components in the complete pheromone cannot be excluded. However, only a single reproducible EAG response was recorded from males in GC-EAD analyses of pheromone gland extracts.

(Z,Z)-6,9-Nonadecadiene has been identified as a sex pheromone or attractant in one member of the Arctiidae family and 14 members of the Geometridae family in the subfamilies Alsophilinae, Ennominae and Larentiinae (Pherobase, 2017). Of these species the following occur in the UK: *Alcis repandata* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Bupalus piniaria* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Campaea margaritata* (Linnaeus, 1761), *Ecliptopera silaceata* (Dennis & Schiffermuller, 1775), *Operophtera fagata* (Scharfenberg, 1805), *Epirrhoe alternata* (Muller, 1764) and *Epirrhoe tristata* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Bogenschuetz et al. 1985; Chittamuru 2000; Francke et al. 1998; Millar et al. 1992; Subchev et al. 1986; Szocs et al. 2004; Wong et al. 1985). None of these species was caught in the traps baited with ZZ6,9-19:H in our studies, probably due, at least in part, to differences in flight seasons and distributions. *Trichopteryx polycommata* flies from March to early May while *A. repandata* flies in June and July, *B. piniarius* flies in May and June, *C. margaritata* flies from June to September, *E. silaceata* flies from May to September, *O. fagata* flies from October to December, *E. alternata* flies from May to September and *E. tristata* flies from May to July (Kimber 2018).

In Kent and Sussex, only *T. polycommata* were caught in the pheromone traps. However, in Lancashire adults of *T. carpinata*, the only other species in the *Trichopteryx* genus found in the UK, were also caught. Despite being more common than *T. polycommata*, *T. carpinata* were trapped in lower numbers. This suggests that Z,Z6,9-19:H may not be the complete pheromone blend for *T. carpinata*, and additional pheromone components may play a role in maintaining reproductive isolation from *T. polycommata*. Moths of the two species

have different markings and can be distinguished and identified by eye. Thus, cross-attraction does not present a problem for monitoring *T. polycommata* using pheromone lures, and indeed, traps baited with this compound can potentially be used to monitor both species to some extent.

The limited data acquired so far on the timing of response of *T. polycommata* males to the pheromone indicate that this is much later than the times when surveys have previously been carried out. Searches for *T. polycommata* by torchlight are typically carried out between 1900 h and 2130 h when the moths can be seen resting on *L. vulgare*. However, it is probable that male moths are responding to the pheromone after this time, which may explain why few moths were observed flying to the lures in the initial tests with volunteers. Consequently, in order to use the lures effectively they must be deployed overnight in pheromone traps. For successful trapping programs, optimum trap height for this species still needs to be established, as height and trap design can have significant influence on number caught (Yonce et al. 1976). If a pheromone trap is not available or appropriate, observations in this study suggest that the lures should be used after midnight. Further investigation is needed to identify when the males are most responsive to the pheromone and therefore the optimum time to use the lures.

The lures loaded with 10 mg ZZ6,9-19:H attracted the highest numbers of *T. polycommata*, but not significantly more than those attracted to lures containing 1, 2 and 5 mg. We therefore recommend the lower loadings for monitoring this species. Using 2 mg pheromone lures to survey for *T. polycommata* increased the number of records in Morecambe Bay, Lancashire from 107 to 881 and the number of sites where *T. polycommata* has been recorded from 48 to 88.

Using pheromone traps requires less survey effort than searching by torchlight, so a greater number of sites can be surveyed and therefore knowledge of distribution, status and ecology of the species can be improved (Burman et al. 2016; Giangregorio 2015; Zauli et al. 2014). This has been demonstrated with *Synanthedon vespiformis*, and saproxylic beetles *Osmoderma eremita* and *Elater ferrugineus* (Burman et al. 2016; Giangregorio 2015; Zauli et al. 2014). Improved knowledge of insect distribution can be used to help inform management practices and to predict the effects of factors such as habitat fragmentation (Giangregorio 2015; Zauli et al. 2014). The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for *T. polycommata* identifies a need to encourage survey work to gain a better understanding of the moth's distribution and this pilot study clearly shows that pheromone monitoring achieved this. The pheromone lures

enable low-effort species-specific monitoring to be carried out by volunteers and conservation organizations. Such activities will support other BAP actions, including understanding the ecology of *T. polycommata*, and better managing the sites where it is found.

In light of this successful pilot study, a nationwide survey of *T. polycommata* using pheromone lures is now being conducted with a number of conservation organizations across the UK. In most European countries, the population trends of *T. polycommata* are unknown or assumed to be stable, except in Belgium where the species is reported to be no longer present (JNCC 2010). International surveys using pheromone lures would contribute to *T. polycommata* conservation programs across Europe, and could lead to rediscovery of populations in places where it was previously thought to have become extinct.

Acknowledgements We would like to thank Butterfly Conservation UK for recruiting field recorders and helping to coordinate distribution of lures. We would particularly like to thank Tony Davis for obtaining insect material, Martin Wain, Liz Davidson the numerous field recorders who volunteered to help with survey work in Morecambe Bay and Lancashire, and Colin Whiteman and for his help in Sussex trials. Thanks also go to the landowners who allowed access to their property in aid of insect conservation research, and Canterbury Christ Church University for funding the field research.

References

- Andersson K, Bergman KO, Andersson F, Hedenström E, Jansson N, Burman J, Winde I, Larsson MC, Milberg P (2014) High-accuracy sampling of saproxylic diversity indicators at regional scales with pheromones: The case of *Elater ferrugineus* (Coleoptera, Elateridae). Biol Conserv 171:156–166. doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2014.01.007
- Bogenschütz H, Knauf W, Tröger EJ, Bestmann HJ, Vostrowsky O (1985) Pheromones 49: males of Geometridae caught by C19-polyenes in pine stands. Z Angew Entomol 100:349–354
- Brooks DR, Bater JE, Clark SJ, Monteith DT, Andrews C, Corbett SJ, Beaumont DA, Chapman JW (2012) Large carabid beetle declines in a United Kingdom monitoring network increases evidence for a widespread loss in insect biodiversity. J Appl Ecol 49:1009–1019. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02194.x
- Burman J, Westerberg L, Ostrow S, Ryrholm N, Bergman KO, Winde I, Nyabuga FN, Larsson MC, Milberg P (2016) Revealing hidden species distribution with pheromones: the case of *Synanthedon vespiformis* (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) in Sweden. J Insect Conserv 20:11–21. doi: 10.1007/s10841-015-9835-9
- Cardoso P, Erwin TL, Borges PA V, New TR (2011) The seven impediments in invertebrate conservation and how to overcome them. Biol Conserv 144:2647–2655. doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2011.07.024
- Chittamuru S (2000) Studies on the female sex pheromone of the pine looper moth, *Bupalus piniaria* L.(Lepidoptera: Geometridae). Thesis University of Greenwich, UK
- Choi SW (2007) Taxonomic study of the genus *Trichopteryx* Hübner (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) in Korea. Entomol Res. 37: 46-53. doi: 10.1111/j.1748-5967.2007.00052.x
- Conrad KF, Warren MS, Fox R, Parsons MS, Woiwod IP (2006) Rapid declines of common, widespread British moths provide evidence of an insect biodiversity crisis. Biol Conserv 132:279–291. doi: 10.1016/j.biocon.2006.04.020
- Dunn RR (2005) Modern insect extinctions, the neglected majority. Conserv Biol 19:1030–1036

375 ESRI (Environmental Systems Resource Institute) (2014) ArcMap 10.2. ESRI, Redlands,
376 California.

377 Fonseca CR (2009) The silent mass extinction of insect herbivores in biodiversity hotspots.
378 *Conserv Biol* 23:1507–1515. doi: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2009.01327.x

379 Francke W, Brunnemann U, Bergmann J, Plass E (1998) Semiochemistry at junctions,
380 volatile compounds from desert locusts, caddisflies and geometrid moths. In: *Int.*
381 *Conf. Insect Phero.* pp 71–73

382 Giangregorio P (2015) Updated distribution of *Osmoderma eremita* in Abruzzo (Italy) and
383 agro-pastoral practices affecting its conservation (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae).
384 *Fragmenta Entomologica* 47:139–146. doi: doi.org/10.4081/fe.2015.142

385 Jenkins M (2003) Prospects for biodiversity. *Science* 302:1175–1177. doi:
386 10.1126/science.1088666

387 JNCC (2007) UK BAP priority terrestrial invertebrate species. [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5169)
388 5169. Accessed 3 Aug 2018

389 JNCC (2010) *Trichopteryx polycommata* version 2.
390 http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/_speciespages/616.pdf. Accessed 3 Aug 2018

391 Kadej M, Zając K, Ruta R, Gutowski JM, Tarnawski D, Smolis A, Olbrycht T, Malkiewicz
392 A, Myśków E, Larsson MC, Andersson F (2014) Sex pheromones as a tool to
393 overcome the Wallacean shortfall in conservation biology: a case of *Elater*
394 *ferrugineus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Coleoptera: Elateridae). *J Insect Conserv* 25–32. doi:
395 10.1007/s10841-014-9735-4

396 Kellert SR (1993) Values and perceptions of invertebrates. *Conserv Biol* 7:845–855. doi:
397 10.1046/j.1523-1739.1993.07040845.x

398 Kim KC (1993) Biodiversity, conservation and inventory: why insects matter. *Biodivers*
399 *Conserv* 2:191–214

400 Kimber I (2018) UKMoths | Guide to the moths of Great Britain and Ireland. In: UKMoths.
401 <http://www.ukmoths.org.uk/>. Accessed 3 Aug 2018

402 Larigauderie A, Prieur-Richard AH, Mace GM, Lonsdale M, Mooney HA, Brussaard L,
403 Cooper D, Cramer W, Daszak P, Díaz S, Duraiappah A (2012) Biodiversity and

ecosystem services science for a sustainable planet: The DIVERSITAS vision for
 2012-20. *Curr Opin Env Sust* 4:101–105. doi: 10.1016/j.cosust.2012.01.007

Larsson MC, Hedin J, Svensson GP, Tolasch T, Francke W (2003) Characteristic odor of
Osmoderma eremita identified as a male-released pheromone. *J Chem Ecol* 29:575–
 587. doi: 10.1023/A:1022850704500

Larsson MC, Svensson GP (2009) Pheromone monitoring of rare and threatened insects:
 Exploiting a pheromone-kairomone system to estimate prey and predator abundance.
Conserv Biol 23:1516–1525. doi: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2009.01263.x

Lenth R (2019) emmeans: Estimated Marginal Means, aka Least-Squares Means. R package
 version 1.3.3.

Littlewood N, Stewart AJ, Woodcock B (2012) Science into practice - how can fundamental
 science contribute to better management of grasslands for invertebrates? *Insect
 Conserv Diver* 5:1–8. doi: 10.1111/j.1752-4598.2011.00174.x

Millar JG, Giblin M, Barton D, Underhill EW (1992) Sex pheromone components of the
 geometrid moths *Lobophora nivigerata* and *Epirrhoe sperryi*. *J Chem Ecol* 18:1057–
 1068. doi: 10.1007/BF00980062

Millar JG, Haynes KF, Dossey AT, McElfresh JS, Allison JD (2016) Sex attractant
 pheromone of the luna moth, *Actias luna* (Linnaeus). *J Chem Ecol* 42:869–876. doi:
 10.1007/s10886-016-0751-6

Musa N, Andersson K, Burman J, Andersson F, Hedenström E, Jansson N, Paltto H,
 Westerberg L, Winde I, Larsson MC, Bergman KO (2013) Using sex pheromone and
 a multi-scale approach to predict the distribution of a rare saproxylic beetle. *PLoS
 ONE* 8:. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0066149

Oleander A, Burman J, Buswell V (2018) ‘Fool me once, but rarely fool me twice’:
 Recapture rates and the effect of lure-ageing in pheromone traps for the burnet moth
Zygaena filipendulae (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera: Zygaenidae). *Entomol
 Gaz* 69:31-42. doi: 10.31184/G00138894.691.1636

R Core Team (2018) R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation
 for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. URL <https://www.R-project.org/>.

Samways MJ (2007) Insect conservation: a synthetic management approach. *Annu Rev
 Entomol* 52:465–487. doi: 10.1146/annurev.ento.52.110405.091317

435 Santamaría L, Méndez PF (2012) Evolution in biodiversity policy - current gaps and future
 436 needs. *Evol Appl* 5:202–218. doi: 10.1111/j.1752-4571.2011.00229.x

437 Shaw M (2010) Rediscovery of *Earinus transversus* Lyle (Hymenoptera: Braconidae:
 438 Agathidinae), a parasitoid of *Trichopteryx polycommata* (Denis and
 439 Schiffermuller)(Lepidoptera). In: *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*.
 440 <http://repository.nms.ac.uk/id/eprint/495>. Accessed 3 Aug 2018

441 Subchev MA, Ganev JA, Vostrowsky O, Bestmann HJ (1986) Screening and use of sex
 442 attractants in monitoring of Geometrid moths in Bulgaria. *Z Naturforsch - Section C J*
 443 *Biosci* 41:1082–1086. doi: 10.1515/znc-1986-11-1223

444 Svensson GP, Oleksa A, Gawroński R, Lassance JM, Larsson MC (2009) Enantiomeric
 445 conservation of the male-produced sex pheromone facilitates monitoring of threatened
 446 European hermit beetles (*Osmoderma* spp.). *Ent Exp Applic* 133:276–282. doi:
 447 10.1111/j.1570-7458.2009.00923.x

448 Szöcs G, Tóth M, Kárpáti Z, Zhu J, Löfstedt C, Plass E, Francke W (2004) Identification of
 449 polyenic hydrocarbons from the northern winter moth, *Operophtera fagata*, and
 450 development of a species specific lure for pheromone traps. *Chemoecology* 14:53–58.
 451 doi: 10.1007/s00049-003-0258-9

452 Thomas JA, Telfer MG, Roy DB, Preston CD, Greenwood JJ, Asher J, Fox R, Clarke RT,
 453 Lawton JH (2004) Comparative losses of British butterflies, birds, and plants and the
 454 global extinction crisis. *Science* 303:1879–1881. doi: 10.1126/science.1095046

455 Waldron A, Mooers AO, Miller DC, Nibbelink N, Redding D, Kuhn TS, Roberts JT,
 456 Gittleman JL (2013) Targeting global conservation funding to limit immediate
 457 biodiversity declines. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 110:1–5. doi: 10.5061/dryad.p69t1

458 Wigglesworth T, Parsons M, Warren M (2018) Barred Tooth Striped Moth. [http://butterfly-](http://butterfly-conservation.org/files/barred_tooth-striped-psf.pdf)
 459 [conservation.org/files/barred_tooth-striped-psf.pdf](http://butterfly-conservation.org/files/barred_tooth-striped-psf.pdf). Accessed 3 Aug 2018

460 Wong JW, Underhill EW, MacKenzie SL, Chisholm MD (1985) Sex attractants for
 461 Geometrid and Noctuid moths - Field trapping and electroantennographic responses to
 462 triene hydrocarbons and monoepoxydiene derivatives. *J Chem Ecol* 11:727–756. doi:
 463 10.1007/BF00988302

464 Yamamoto M, Yamakawa R, Oga T, Takei Y, Kinjo M, Ando T (2008) synthesis and
 465 chemical characterization of hydrocarbons with a 6,9,11-, 3,6,9,11-, or 1,3,6,9-

466 polyene system, pheromone candidates in Lepidoptera. J Chem Ecol 34:1057-1064.
467 doi 10.1007/s10886-008-9461-z

468 Yonce CE, Gentry CR, Tumlinson JH, Doolittle RE, Nielsen DG (1976) Lesser peachtree
469 borer: Influence of trap height, substrates, concentration, and trap design on capture of
470 male moths with females and with a synthetic pheromone. Env Entomol, 5: 417-420.
471 doi: 10.1093/ee/5.3.417

472 Zauli A, Chiari S, Hedenström E, Svensson GP, Carpaneto GM (2014) Using odour traps for
473 population monitoring and dispersal analysis of the threatened saproxylic beetles
474 *Osmoderma eremita* and *Elater ferrugineus* in central Italy. J Insect Conserv 18:801–
475 813. doi: 10.1007/s10841-014-9687-8

476

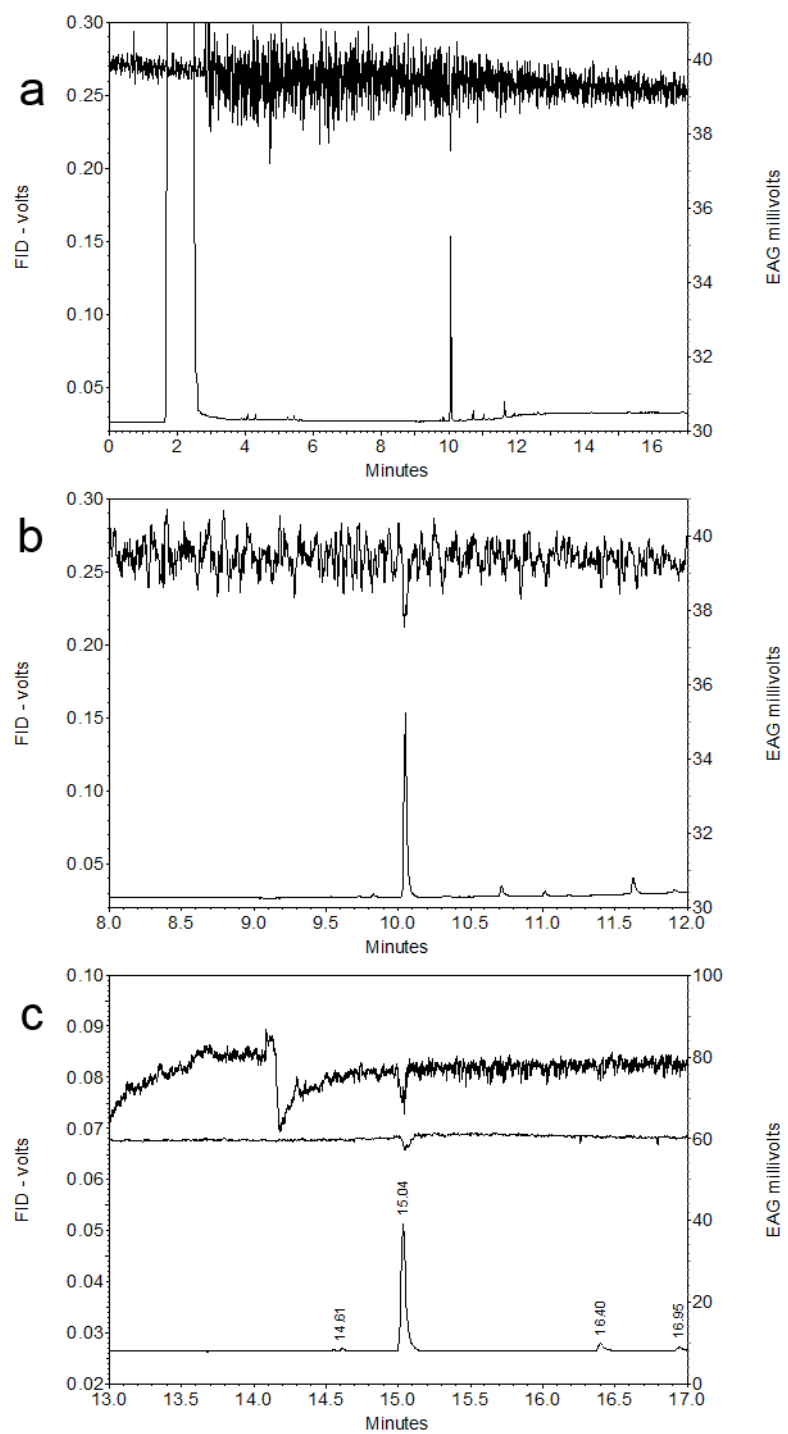
Figure Captions

Fig.1 Coupled gas chromatography-electroantennogram analyses of pheromone gland extract from female *Trichopteryx polycommata* with antenna from male moth. Fig. 1(a) shows complete analysis and (b) expanded portion with single EAG response to peak at 10.05 min (run with temperature program of 20 °C min⁻¹); Fig. 1(c) additional runs with the same extract and antenna of second male moth showing response to peak at 15.04 min (run with temperature program of 10 °C min⁻¹). In each, top trace is the EAG response from the male moth antenna; bottom trace is the GC-FID trace.

Fig.2 Mass spectra of compound in pheromone gland extract from female *Trichopteryx polycommata* (upper) and synthetic (Z,Z)-6,9-nonadecadiene (lower)

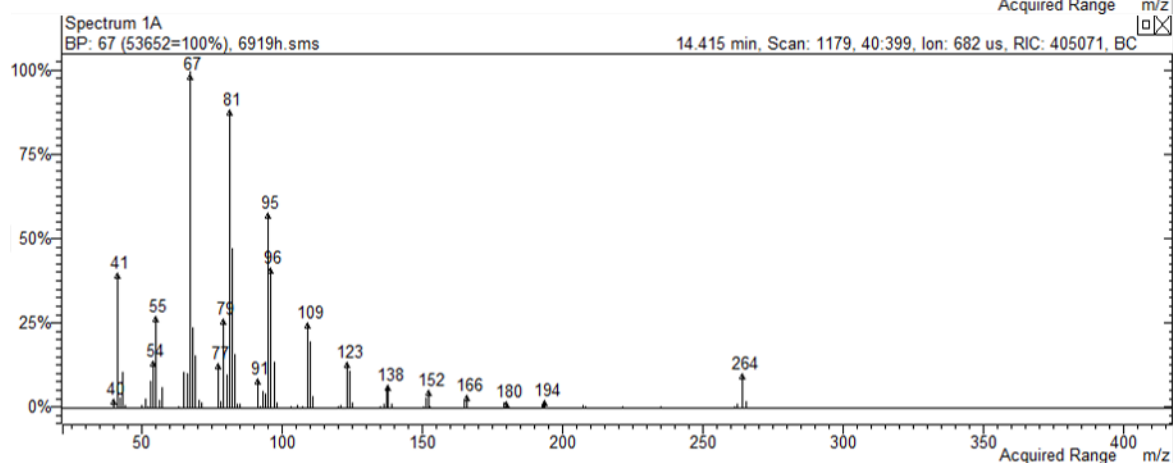
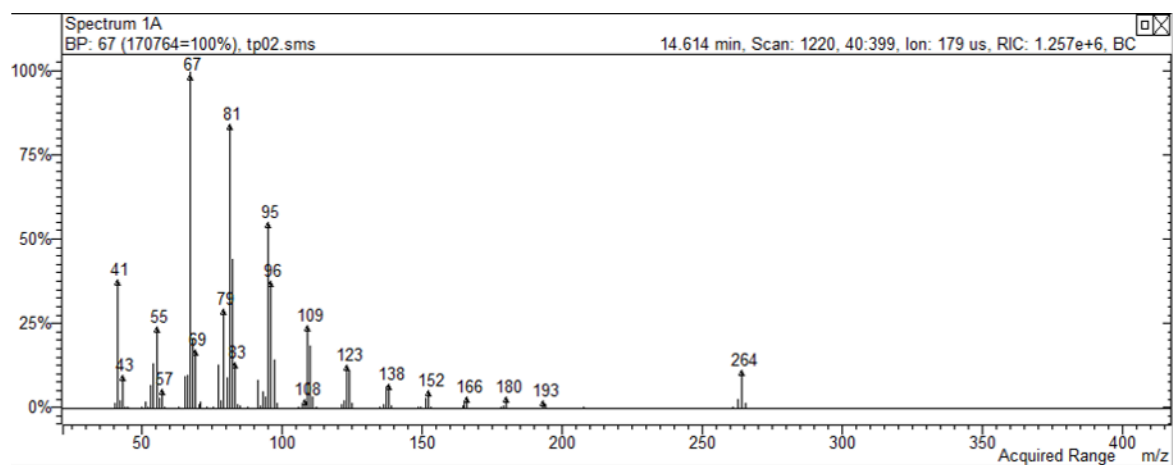
Fig 3. Mean catch night⁻¹ (\pm 95% CI) of *T. polycommata* at six sites using traps baited with lures loaded with varying amounts of (Z,Z)-6,9-nonadecadiene. Trap catches were log (n+1) transformed for analysis and back-transformed to the original scale for presentation. Different letters indicate significant differences in mean catches (Tukey's test, $P < 0.05$)

Fig.4 Map of known geographical distribution of *Trichopteryx polycommata* in Morecombe Bay, UK, before and after pheromone survey work in 2017. Circles are proportional to the number of moths caught at any particular location. White circles represent trap catches at locations where the species had already been recorded prior to the 2017 pheromone survey. Black circles represent trap catches at locations where the moth has never been recorded before but was attracted in the pheromone survey.



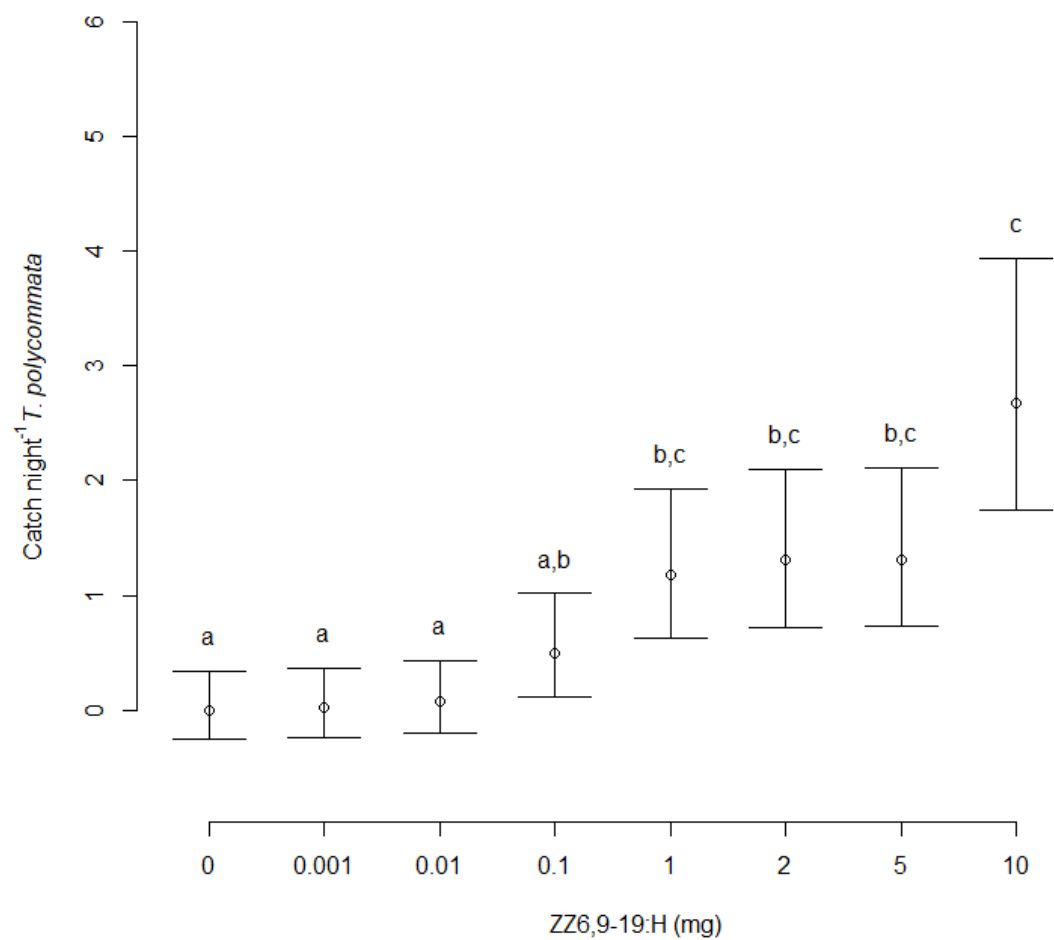
498

499



500

501



502

